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On *Thursday* last the Lightning fell on 2 Steeples  
not far from *Colchester*. \* \* \*. From

†

*Your humble Servant,*

Abraham Trembley.

VIII.

Smart Lethieullier *Esq*; *F. R. S.* to the Pre-  
sident, of the burning of the Steeple of Dan-  
bury in Essex, by Lightning, and of the  
Earthquake.

*S I R,*

Read March 1.  
1749-50.

**A** S I think there was some Mistake in  
the Account of the late burning of  
*Danbury* Steeple by Lightning (read last *Thursday*  
before the *Royal Society*) which Mistake seem'd  
to give Room to imagine it had some Connexion  
with the late Earthquake, I take the Liberty of  
sending you the Particulars of the aforesaid Acci-  
dent, as they were transmitted to me by two Gentle-

liii 2

men

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† Mr. Trembley, who was going the next Day for *Holland*, was  
at the Time of the Earthquake with Mr. *Folkes* in his Study  
in *Queen's-Square*; where were also the Earl of *Macclesfield*  
and the Hon. *Charles Bentinck*; they all felt themselves at the same  
Instant strongly lifted up, and presently set down again: They also  
heard a Noise over their Heads as of some heavy Piece of Furni-  
ture being thrown down, whilst those who were in the Room over  
them were frighted, and apprehended the like Accident had hap-  
pened below-stairs. The Coachmen on the Boxes of 2 Coaches  
then standing at the Door, were extremely sensible of the Shock,  
and apprehended the House was going to fall upon them.

men of Distinction in the Parish, who are the present Church-wardens.

*Monday*, the 5<sup>th</sup> of this instant *February*, about 3 o' Clock in the Afternoon, a very great and black Cloud pass'd over the Hill on which *Danbury* stands, and broke into a violent Storm of Thunder, Lightning, and Rain. No immediate Damage was apprehended that Night; but, between four and five o' Clock next Morning, some Persons perceiv'd the Ball on the Top of the Spire (which was of Wood, and on which the Weather-cock stood) to be on Fire, they immediately alarm'd the Neighbourhood, and, by the Help of a large Fire-Engine, fetch'd from *Chelmsford*, they got the Mastery of the Fire by about 11 o' Clock at Noon; tho' it broke out twice afterwards. It burnt downwards with great Fury, and has intirely consum'd 11 Feet of the Spire, and damaged 8 Feet more, as likewise the Beams on which the Spire was fixed. — Some of the burnt Timbers and melted Lead have hurt the Roof of the Chancel, but not very considerably.

The great Height of the Situation of this Church probably exposes it to Accidents of this Nature; for *Walsingham* relates, ' that, on *Corpus Christi* Day ' *anno* 1402. the Devil enter'd this Church in the ' Likeness of a Friar-Minor, where he raged, to the ' great Terror of the Parishioners, and at the same ' time, by the Violence of Thunder and a Tempest, ' the whole Body of the Church was broken.'

This Devil, or Friar, was, I conclude, no more than a Flash of some fiery Meteor, which the fruitful Fancy of those Times could immediately cloath with the first Habit that occur'd to them.

With

With regard to the Extent of the late Earthquake this Way (I mean due East from *London*) I cannot learn that it pass'd the little River *Rodden* that runs by my Gardens, and crosses the *Harwich* Road at *Great Ilford*. My own House stands about half a Mile North from the 6 Mile-Stone. I was in my Gardens with several Workmen, and none of us were sensible of any thing: but my Wife, who was in her Dressing-room, felt the House tremble so much, that, upon my coming in, she told me she verily believ'd there had been an Earthquake; the Motion of the House under her being exactly like what she had often heard describ'd when she was in *Italy*.  
I am,

S I R,

*Aldersbrook, Feb. 27.*  
1749-50.

Your most obedient  
humble Servant,

Smart Lethieullier.

IX.

*The President's Account of the Earthquake  
at London, March 8.*

*March 8, 1749.*

*Read March 8.*  
1749-50.

**A**T very nearly half an Hour after 5 this Morning, being then in Bed, but perfectly awake, I felt a very strong Shake, or rather 3 or 4 successive Shakes of an Earthquake, as I immediately took them to be. I judge the whole  
*Phænomenon*